

Noah's Ark Pre-school

Cookham Dean Village Hall, Cookham, Maidenhead SL6 9PD



Inspection date	15 October 2018
Previous inspection date	21 March 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This is a provision that requires improvement

- The provider has failed to ensure the required information about new committee members has been sent to Ofsted, in order to enable all necessary suitability checks to be completed.
- Staff do not sufficiently explore alternative ways to gain more in-depth information from all parents about their children's learning and achievements when they first start to attend.
- Staff do not make the most of opportunities to extend children's understanding of the importance of hygiene, to further support their good health.

It has the following strengths

- Most staff are well qualified. They use effective teaching methods to support children's learning and know the children well. Staff plan carefully for all children's learning needs, using information from observations and closely monitoring their progress. All children make good progress in their learning.
- Staff are very good role models of acceptable behaviour and provide clear, consistent expectations of children's behaviour. Children learn to share, take turns and respect each other's feelings. They play cooperatively together and behave well.
- Staff provide good support to enable children to develop their early writing skills. They offer enjoyable activities to strengthen children's hand muscles and promote independent early mark-making opportunities throughout the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
provide Ofsted with the relevant information about committee members to enable the required suitability checks to be carried out.	15/11/2018

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- gain more detailed information from parents about what their children already know and can do, to help plan for their learning as soon as they start
- make more effective use of opportunities for children to learn about the importance of good hygiene.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children and staff engaged in activities, indoors and talked to them at appropriate times.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation of an activity with the manager. She met with the manager at appropriate times throughout the inspection to discuss how the manager monitors and supports staff.
- The inspector looked at a range of relevant documentation, including the pre-school's policies and children's records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Hazel Farrant

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

The provider has a lack of understanding of the legal requirements to supply Ofsted with the information required to check the suitability of committee members. As a result, the provider has not complied with this legal requirement. However, the impact of this is minimal as the members of the committee do not have unsupervised access to children. Safeguarding is effective. Staff have a secure knowledge of child protection and effectively implement the pre-schools up-to-date policies and procedures. Careful recruitment and vetting of new staff contributes to children's safety. Staff benefit from regular supervision and professional development opportunities. For example, following training, staff now ensure that activities provide suitable challenge to all children to help them move on in their learning and development. The manager includes the views of staff, parents and children as part of the self-evaluation process. She works closely with staff to make improvements to their practice. Parents are complimentary about the quality of the provision, commenting particularly on the friendliness of staff and the welcome their children receive. Partnerships with other early years settings children attend are secure.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The manager closely monitors children's progress and helps staff to address any gaps identified in children's learning. Staff regularly speak with parents and share their children's development records, so they know what their children need to learn next. Staff move around to deploy themselves effectively. As a result, they support children's learning very well. They effectively support children's language skills. For instance, staff introduce new vocabulary in context as they share favourite books with the children. They actively make good use of opportunities to incorporate mathematical learning. For example, staff support children to identify shapes and count the number of corners of a triangle, square and rectangle.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Staff form strong emotional bonds with children. They warmly praise children's efforts and achievements, which helps to boost their self-confidence. Staff ensure they know children's care requirements and support their individual needs effectively. Children take part in physical exercise each day. They go on walks to nearby farms, collect apples from the orchard and play ball games on the village green.

Outcomes for children are good

Children settle quickly and thoroughly enjoy their time at the pre-school. They are keen and enthusiastic learners. Children are starting to link letters to the sounds they make. Most children recognise their own name and independently self-register themselves at the start of the session. They successfully develop key skills that they need in preparation for future learning and for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	108444
Local authority	Windsor and Maidenhead
Inspection number	10066894
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Sessional day care
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	24
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	Noah's Ark Pre-School Committee
Registered person unique reference number	RP522669
Date of previous inspection	21 March 2016
Telephone number	01628 485708

Noah's Ark Pre-school is a parent-committee-run pre-school and opened in 1975. It operates from Cookham Dean Village Hall, near Maidenhead, Berkshire. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm, during term time only. It receives funding for the provision of free early education to children aged three and four years. The pre-school employs six staff, one additional bank staff to cover absences and one staff member for Administration. The manager and three of the staff hold appropriate early years qualifications. This includes one member of staff who holds early years professional status.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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